



## FOREST STEWARDSHIP CHALLENGE GRANT PROGRAM – YEAR 2002

### Department of Natural Resources / Division of Forestry

State Form 50782 (1-02)

**Purpose:** To utilize the strength of the private sector resource professionals, conservation organizations, and forest enthusiasts to foster the retention, restoration and stewardship of private forest land in Indiana.

The Indiana Division of Forestry, upon recommendation of the Indiana Forest Stewardship Coordinating Committee (IFSCC), is seeking project proposals from private individuals, not-for-profit organizations, foundations, trade associations, universities, conservation organizations, and environmental groups. **Project proposals must meet all the criteria listed below.**

***Deadlines:*** Project proposals are to be submitted in writing **no later than the close of business of Friday, March 15, 2002.**

***Submit completed application*** on the application form furnished by the Indiana Division of Forestry, or identical form, to:

Dan Ernst  
Stewardship Coordinator

IDNR – Division of Forestry  
402 West Washington , Rm W296  
Indianapolis, IN 46204

***Questions:*** Stewardship Coordinator  
317-232-4101  
317-233-3863 (fax)  
dernst@dnr.state.in.us

### Criteria

1. Proposal must explain and will be evaluated on how well the project will help accomplish one or more of the goals of Indiana's 5 Year Forest Stewardship Plan:
  - Increase the acreage of forestland cared for under a stewardship ethic.
  - Increase the acreage of private lands entered in the Classified Forest and/or Classified Wildlife Habitat Programs.
  - Maintain a stable Indiana forestland base, well stocked with healthy forests, well distributed across the state and available for traditional forest uses.
  - Increase the use of forestry best management practices during timber harvest operations.
  - Foster local or regional support for forest retention and stewardship.
2. Proposal should demonstrate and will be evaluated on private participation and matching the total grant funds requested.
  - Match may be in actual dollars, in-kind donations of material and labor, or a combination of both. The value of in-kind material and labor claimed must be supported by documentation.
  - Commitment letters must accompany your proposal if the proposal includes cash donations from support groups or co-sponsors.
  - IDNR or federal funds may not be used as part of the match, nor may the time of IDNR and federal employees be used for in-kind match.
3. The time frame for completion of a project should be one (1) year after the application is approved. Projects of longer duration may be proposed, but will require an explanation of why a longer time frame is required.

One-time project extensions may be granted upon written request from the grantee explaining why the project cannot be completed as scheduled. A total of two (2) years will be allowed for projects developing landowner cost share programs.

4. Grants shall be awarded for up to \$10,000/yr. unless otherwise negotiated. These are 50/50 matching grants. The total value of a project must equal at least 2 times the amount of the grant awarded. Project value includes donations of in-kind services provided by people volunteering their time and services.
5. Proposals shall be judged by a team selected by the State Forester. The Stewardship Coordinator will serve as leader of the judging team.
6. Proposals that demonstrate the following attributes will be given the highest consideration:
  - Encourage landowners to utilize private resource professionals in preparing resource management plans and in carrying out the application of practices recommended in those plans.
  - Promote multiple resource management/benefits of private forest lands.
  - Target a specific natural resource area, such as a watershed. Or targets new partners, constituencies or outlets (e.g. realtors, lenders, association periodicals, local government,...)
  - Project originality (taking a new approach) in getting more private sector involvement and/or forest owner application of good resource management.
  - Produce direct public benefits as well as individual landowner benefits.
  - Utilizes and has documented support of partners in the project area.
  - Projects that have high probability of continuing after the grant is fulfilled.
  - Projects with significantly greater than 50% match and variety of match sources.

### Other Considerations

1. The Division of Forestry reserves the right to request additional information after the application has been submitted in order to fairly evaluate the project proposal.
2. Winning proposals will be contacted by April 31 to initiate a contract agreement.
3. In order for expenditures and donations to be eligible for reimbursement, they must be incurred during the project period, with the following exception: Cash donations received prior to project approval.
4. Equipment purchases of more than \$250 will not be eligible for reimbursement unless they are identified in the application. In no case may the purchase of equipment exceed 50% of the grant amount (25% of the total project cost where there is a 50/50 match).
5. Federal and State agencies are not eligible for Challenge Grants with the exception of Soil and Water Conservation Districts, Resource Conservation and Development Councils, and Universities.
6. Funds will be transferred to the sponsor as a reimbursement when the project, or project components are completed and approved. This is accomplished by filing a completed standard State of Indiana claim voucher form with the Stewardship Coordinator
7. Approved projects must submit two project status reports during the contract period. The due dates for the status reports will be provided by the Stewardship Coordinator upon notification of project acceptance.



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*Application Deadline March 15, 2002*

**I. PROJECT TITLE:** \_\_\_\_\_

**II. PROJECT SPONSOR (Grantee)**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Sponsor's Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Primary Contact Person

\_\_\_\_\_  
Sponsor's Address

\_\_\_\_\_  
Contact Person's Address

\_\_\_\_\_  
Sponsor's Phone Number

\_\_\_\_\_  
Contact Person's Phone Number

\_\_\_\_\_  
County

\_\_\_\_\_  
Federal I.D. # or S. S. #

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date of Application

**III. AMOUNT OF GRANT FUNDS REQUESTED**

Grant dollars requested

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

Cash match provided

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

Other match provided

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total Match

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total project value

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

**IV. BRIEFLY DESCRIBE PROJECT (100 words or less)**

**V. SIGNATURES**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Sponsoring Organization's Authorized Representative

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Typed Name of the Representative

\_\_\_\_\_  
Title of Representative

\_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone Number

VI. **WHAT WILL THIS PROJECT ACCOMPLISH OR PRODUCE** (remember that if approved, these will be the products needed to qualify for final funding) (examples: video on Indiana's Classified Forest program (200 copies), 12 newspaper articles delivered to newspapers in 10 counties, 2 landowner forestry clinics and forestry packet for attendees)

1.

2.

3.

4.

*How will project success be measured?: (e.g. 1,000 acres reforested, \$10,000 raised for forest restoration activities, forestry news releases result in 100 requests for forestry assistance)*

VII. **Project Schedule (list activities to be worked on and completed during grant period)**

First Quarter:

Second Quarter:

1) File midway project status report with Indiana Division of Forestry

Third Quarter:

Fourth Quarter:

1) File fourth quarter project status report with Indiana Division of Forestry

### VIII. HOW WILL FUNDS BE USED? (Budget)

Items of Expense	Grant \$	Cash match \$	Other Match \$
Salaries & Wages	_____	_____	_____
Postage	_____	_____	_____
Printing	_____	_____	_____
Contracts/Cost share payments	_____	_____	_____
Clerical	_____	_____	_____
Office Supplies	_____	_____	_____
Field Supplies	_____	_____	_____
Equipment	_____	_____	_____
Transportation/travel	_____	_____	_____
Lease or Rental	_____	_____	_____
Miscellaneous	_____	_____	_____
<b>TOTALS</b>	_____	_____	_____

Explanation if necessary:

Identify Sources of Cash Match:

### IX. EVALUATION CRITERIA

How Does The Proposal .....

1. Meet the goal of “increasing the acreage of forest cared for under a stewardship ethic”?
2. Meet the goal of getting more forest owners entered in a classification program?
3. How does proposal help maintain a well stocked, healthy and stable forestland base? Or, increase local or regional support for forest retention and stewardship?

4. How does the proposal increase the use of forestry best management practices during timber harvests?
5. Produce public benefits in addition to landowner benefits? What are they??
6. Produce long lasting or sustainable benefits? What are they??
7. Does the proposal target specific watersheds or ecological areas for the application of specific practices?  
If yes, please explain:
8. Uses the expertise of private resource professionals?  
If yes, explain.
9. Have support from the forestry community? (support letters should be included)

**X. FINAL STATEMENT** (a chance to fill-in any important facts not already stated - one page of additional information may accompany the application)

## ***Forest Stewardship Grant Ideas***

The Forest Stewardship Challenge Grant program offers partial funding to develop and implement strategies that will contribute to the stewardship of Indiana's rich hardwood forests. It is clear that long-term forest conservation will take many strategies, many partners and a sustained program over many years. Proposed projects must focus upon and clearly identify the measurable results, outcomes and products to be produced. Projects should also identify how they may be sustained beyond the grant period. Below is a collection of forest conservation strategies that have been bantered about in one form or another. Many others have not been captured in this short list or will be created by the innovative work of forest enthusiasts. **The 2002 Grant application deadline is March 15, 2002.**

**Classified Forest:** Develop a model turn-key program to enter landowners into the Classified Forest Program. May include provisions to recruit eligible lands, develop required forest stewardship plans, obtaining property surveys and processing the Classified Forest applications.

**Forestry Start-up Programs for New Landowners:** Develop model program to reach forest owners near the time they acquire forest land and provide them with a "Start-up" package on forest stewardship.

**Forestry News Articles:** Develop and print a series of local interest forestry stories in local newspapers or periodicals. Place priority on new media outlets, and outlets in target watersheds.

**Local and State Forestry Committees:** Organize or structure a local forestry committee to identify local forestry issues, and work to address these issues at the local level. Include involvement of local government.

**Forestry e-Services:** Develop internet based applications for forestry services (example: listing of forestry service providers, bulletin board posting forestry services needed, timber sale postings, interactive forest planning, etc.).

**Township or Watershed Initiatives:** Concentrated forestry outreach program to identify and implement local strategies to restore, retain and increase forest stewardship in a defined and ecologically important area. Project may concentrate on increasing Classified Forest, conservation easements, reforestation or other long term protection strategies.

**Forest Landowner Data-Base:** Develop county data-base of forest landowners and provide a means to directly contact these owners concerning the importance of their forest and forest stewardship.

**Forest Stewardship Management Plans:** Develop project to provide forest inspections and forest stewardship plans by natural resource professionals in a targeted area.

**Forest Restoration Fund:** Develop a local, regional or State forest restoration fund with the mission and purpose of restoring forestland through conservation tree plantings. These planting could concentrate on riparian corridors, sensitive areas or other environmental priorities. Organize so contributions to the Forest Restoration Fund would be tax deductible.

### **Contact information:**

Dan Ernst, Forest Stewardship Coordinator  
402 West Washington- Room W296  
Indianapolis, IN 46204  
317-232-4105  
[www.dnr.in.gov/forestry](http://www.dnr.in.gov/forestry)